

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01

OFA-01 DLOS-03 IO-10 DOTE-00 CG-00 PM-03 ACDA-05 /115 W
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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5394

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1130

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND'S NATO RELATIONSHIP AGAIN LINKED TO FISHERIES
ISSUE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0595

1. INFLUENCIAL ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN THORARINN THORARINSSON (PROGRESSIVE PARTY)
HAS AGAIN WARNED THAT ICELAND' ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO
WILL BE AFFECTED BY CONTINUING FRG VETO OF EEC-ICELAND
TARIFF AGREEMENT STEMMING FROM FAILURE OF ICELAND AND
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FRG TO COME TO TERMS ON FISHERIES PACT. IN LANGUAGE

SIMILAR TO THAT EMPLOYED IN HIS TIMINN EDITORIAL MAY 29 (REFTTEL) THORARINSSON, IN JUNE 8 TIMINN COLUMN, DE- PLORED ATTEMPT BY BIG NATO POWER TO COERCE SMALLER MEMBER WHICH IS ONLY STANDING UP FOR RIGHTS. "THIS MUST HAVE INFLUENCE ON OVERALL ATTITUDE IN ICELAND TOWARD WESTERN COOPERATION GENERALLY," HE ADDED.

2. COMMENT: EFFORTS BY ICELANDERS TO CONNECT FISHERIES PORBLEMS IN SOME WAY TO NATO RELATIONSHIP OF DEFENSE POLICY ARE, OF COURSE, NOT NEW. NATO MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMITMENT WAS INVOKED BY PROGRESSIVE PARTY-LED GOI DURING 1972-73 FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH UK, AT WHICH TIME ISSUE COMPOUNDED THREAT TO PRESENCE OF US-MANNED DEFENSE FORCE. MORE RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT ICELAND MIGHT RETALIATE AGAINST FRG TARIFF-AGREEMENT VETO AND LANDING BAN BY HALTING IDF'S DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES (REASONING BEING THAT FRG AND OTHER EEC/NATO MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM DEFENSE PRO-TECTION AFFORDED BY IDF). DEPENDING ON COMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM EXTENSION OF ICELAND'S FISHING LIMITS TO 200 MILES LATER THIS YEAR, RELATIONS WITH US AND NATO MAY WELL BE FURTHER DRAGGED INTO SITUATION.
IRVING

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